

PRESS RELEASE

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EAU CLAIRE MAN CHARGED WITH HOLCOMBE BANK ROBBERY

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Benjamin M. Erickson, 24, of Eau Claire, Wis., was indicted on December 3, 2008, by a federal grand jury sitting in Madison.

The indictment charges Erickson with robbing the Dairyland State Bank in Holcombe, Wis., on October 10, 2008. If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in federal prison.

Erickson was arrested yesterday in Eau Claire by federal and local law enforcement agents. He made an initial appearance in U.S. District Court in Madison today. The government moved to detain Erickson both as a danger to the community and as a flight risk. U.S. Magistrate Judge Stephen Crocker ordered the defendant detained pending a detention hearing, which has been scheduled for December 10 at 2:00 p.m.

The matter has been investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Chippewa County Sheriff's Department, Eau Claire Police Department, and Cornell

Police Department. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to First Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen P. Sinnott.

You are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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